

I was honored to do the ECNP Research Internship at the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Gregorio Marañón, CIBERSAM, Madrid, Spain, in February 2016 under the supervision of Professor Celso Arango. Before the placement in Madrid, I was aware of some of the projects on first episode psychosis that were being performed by research groups belonging to CIBERSAM (Centro de Investigación Biomedica en Red de Salud Mental). During my stay, I got to know the members of the research team and all the ongoing projects in the Department and I had also the opportunity to participate in the assessments of the studies on first episode psychosis and other mental disorders led by the team.

The internship was very well organized, giving me the possibility to network with different researchers in the team, who presented their work to me in various fields: neuroimaging, neuroinflammation, neurocognitive tests, autism, etc. I also spent some time working directly with Professor Celso Arango at the outpatient clinic for patients with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and other various psychiatric conditions and gained knowledge which I intend to use it in my daily practice and research activities. A few days were also dedicated to visiting the lab, where different specific procedures were explained to me in details. I had also the opportunity to participate to the clinical work in the inpatient and outpatient units, attended DBT (dialectical behavior therapy) sessions for adolescent patients, and participated in the scientific sessions (e.g. how to review a paper) and other teaching activities in the Department. Thanks to this experience, I was able to become more familiar with the Spanish medical and research system.

Close to the end, I visited the Department of Pharmacology at Universidad Complutense de Madrid, where I had a meeting with Professor JC Leza. He presented to me the joint projects his team is developing with Prof. Arango's group and explained to me how markers of oxidative stress and other biological markers are measured in his laboratory.

The whole experience gave me insight into the clinical, research and activities performed in the Department, and I believe that the basis for a long term relationship was established.

I would like to thank Dr. Covadonga Martinez Diaz- Caneja and many other professionals for this excellent experience in Madrid.

Thank you,
Costin Roventa, MD, PhD